

Feb. 1965

# the WESTERN POTTER



## PURPOSE AND INTENT

This inaugural issue of B. C. POTTER is not only intended to set the tone for what is hoped to become a quarterly information pamphlet, but to be the faithful reporter of anything going on in Canada and elsewhere in ceramics that might be of interest to B. C. Potters at large.

It is also intended to reach and be of service to the isolated potters who are out of reach. This form of report and information will keep them informed also of any meetings, lectures, exhibitions, competitions, or any decisions made by the Guild.

It will also be the spokesman on policy, thinking and planning and inform those groups with whom we are associated or which are interested in hearing from us.

The times may be ripe for greater ventures both local and on the national scale, this being felt through several approaches made by complementing organizations in the fermenting stage. We want them to know about us and we want to hear from them, but before we as an association can be effectively of help or be helped, it is essential that the membership of the B. C. Potters Guild be reinforced both in quality and quantity.

This we hope to achieve by making the Potters Guild as useful as possible to the potters but also, and perhaps foremost, by establishing standards.

It must be assumed that our Guild must comprise all peoples who wish to associate themselves with Pottery making or Ceramics generally. It must be clearly stated and understood, however, that tolerance is expected from both the professional and the amateur (the word amateur being used in the French sense "for the love of it" rather than a dabbler). For, while a Guild would hardly be worth the name without the professional, there must be ample room and accommodation for the part-time potter.

Exhibitions and competitions will be open to all but standards will be applied according to the intent and cultural emphasis of a given exhibition.

ROBERT WEGHSTEEN (President)

## GENERAL MEETINGS

At the Annual General Meeting held on April 15, 1964, the present executive of the B. C. Potters' Guild was installed, as follows:

President: Robert Weghsteen, 6421 Pitt St., W. Vancouver  
1st Vice President: Eric Marsden, 3801 St. George's Ave.,  
North Vancouver.  
2nd Vice President: Mrs Georgina Hughes, 1200 W. Keith Rd.,  
North Vancouver.  
3rd Vice President: Mrs Marjorie Feimann, 6020 Vine St., Van. 15  
Treasurer: Jack Diggle, 190 E. King's Rd., N. Vancouver  
Recording Secretary: Mrs Rosemary McAlister, 6130 Eastmont Dr.,  
West Vancouver  
Corres. Secretary: Mrs Avery Huyghe, 4656 W. 3rd Ave., Van. 8  
Publicity: Mrs Frances Hatfield.

In September Frances Hatfield resigned as Publicity Chairman, as she was moving to Vernon, B. C., and John Boerrigter, 334 Roslyn Blvd., North Vancouver, was appointed to this position. Mrs Hatfield was retained on the executive as regional representative of the Guild in the Okanagan, and Mrs Geraldine Weld has been asked to be our representative of the Guild ~~in the Okanagan~~, and Mrs Geraldine Weld has been asked to be our representative for Vancouver Island.

### Meeting, June 4, 1964.

Two displays of pots, one at the Information Centre on Hornby St., and the other at the Convention of Orthopaedic Surgeons, were arranged through the Guild.

In recognition of her services and contributions to the cause of pottery and the B. C. Potters' Guild, Mrs Olea Davis was made a Life Member of the Guild.

Arrangements were made for participation in the F. C. A. Show at Oakridge, June 15-27, with Frances Hatfield, Ruth Meechan and Wayne Ngan acting as Jury, and Eric Marsden in charge. His report shows: Value of pots sold, \$592.05; expenses, \$25.34; profit to Guild, \$94.57; paid to potters, \$472.14. The average price of pots was 70¢ higher than in 1963, and twelve more pots were sold, resulting in an increase of \$135.68 over the 1963 gross receipts.

After the meeting Robert Weghsteen showed a collection of fascinating and stimulating slides of contemporary potters, including many pots by Wayne Ngan and other students at the Vancouver School of Art.

Meeting, October 15, 1964.

We received formal permission from the Vancouver Art School to hold meetings in their auditorium, free of charge.

An announcement of the British Craftsmen's Show was received, entries to be in Toronto by January 25, 1965.

Glenn Lewis, pottery instructor with the College of Education at U. B. C., gave a talk on his apprenticeship at the Leach Pottery at St. Ives, England, accompanied by slides of Leach pots, other pottery workshops, and construction of gas kilns.

#### EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

The first executive meeting covered the setting up of the Oakridge show at which we were invited by the F. C. A. Although the venture was a heavy burden, it was a great success thanks to Erik Marsden and his organizing committee.

Since the news letter from the Federation of Canadian Artists which included our news letter, has not been published lately, the critical importance for our Guild to come out with its own publication and keep the membership informed was stressed at length. Further improvements were suggested as to content and will be tried out. A note of thanks will be sent the FCA for having assisted us in the past. Other topics discussed included the pertinence of our affiliation with other groups. Our affiliations are: The Canadian Potters Guild, The American Craftsman Council, The World Craftsmans Council, The Federation of Canadian Artists and The Community Arts Council.

#### CANADIAN CERAMICS OF 1965

The number of entries and entrants for the '65 show were down from previous years, perhaps in part due to the weather conditions prevailing in December. Upon cursory examination of the entries, a great number of irregularities was discovered. Among others ....

... several forms were not properly filled in or signed, or were missing altogether. Several entries arrived late and one came to the Vancouver Art Gallery "collect". One rejected entry had not been picked up by the 15th of January as indicated.

A departure from the past was the appointment of a three-man jury, picked for its excellence in taste and integrity. No member of the jury was an entrant in the show nor were names associated with entries.

#### The Jury ...

Mrs Ingeborg Woodcock. Potter and Jeweller, trained in Pottery at Vancouver School of Art under Reg. Dixon and University of B. C. Extension Pottery under Rex Mason.

Mr. Bruno Freschi. Graduate 1961 School of Architecture, University of B. C. Bronze medal and Scholarship RARC.

Mr. Freschi is a keen collector of Pottery.

Mrs Doris Shadbolt. Curator at the Vancouver Art Gallery. The remarks of the Jury will best be summed up by Mrs Shadbolt.

#### Successful entrants were:

John Boerrister, Glen Lewis, Hilda Ross, Wayne Ngan, Marjorie McKay, Santo Mignosa, M. Mehl McLennan,

There were 21 entrants and 70 entries, 12 of which were successful with the local Jury. Several usual entrants did not submit entries but seven new names appeared in this year's list, two of whom had work selected.

#### COMMENTS OF THE JURY

by Doris Shadbolt

What person in his right mind would agree to act as juror for a pottery, or any other, exhibition? He faces certain unpopularity, perhaps re-  
crimination. He knows, though he must try not to think about it, that his decisions will be the cause of varying unpleasant emotions ranging from discouragement to indignation, annoyance and anger. And, on top of it all, he will probably be asked to make a statement suitable for publication! Fortunately, for the person who loves pottery,

there are some returns: Largely the prospect of enlarging one's experience of pottery through the careful and minute study of objects in a situation which demands focus and concentration.

In choosing the entries from B. C. to be included in the Canadian Ceramics 65 Exhibition, we, the jury, were given no instructions. We were given a free hand; there was no interference, no hints as to the number of entries accepted in other years, no suggestions that certain names might be given special consideration. This tacit tribute to our objectivity was appreciated. We knew only that the exhibition for which we were acting as western jury was to be on a national level and that therefore, without being told, the standards by which we were to judge must be of the highest. To send to such a show works of questionable quality would reflect credit on no-one -- the potter, the jury, nor on the reputation of the region.

I could say for all of us I think that our chief search was for pieces which had vitality and originality - that quality of life and individuality and presence which any work of art may have, whether painting, sculpture or whatever. By originality of course one does not mean that one expects a shape or a glaze or a decoration which has never been used before, but that these things be animated from within by the potter's understanding and sensitivity.

Some of the most difficult rejections we had to make were those of obviously competent professional technicians whose forms bordered on the cliches seen in current craft magazines and failed to communicate any first-hand experience. I should say we were more inclined to be forgiving of a minor technical deficiency provided that the piece had some urgency about it - though we certainly felt that technical excellence should be assumed in entries for this kind of show.

A number of the better-known potters of the region, for whatever reasons of their own, did not submit work while several others, clearly did not enter their best work. Had it not been for this fact, B. C. 's entry this year would undoubtedly have been larger and more impressive than it was.

D. S.

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT RE EXHIBITIONS

Every effort will be made to insure

- that in the future all the members of the B. C. Potters Guild be fully informed of any show or exhibition held in Canada or elsewhere;
- that all correspondence between the B. C. Guild and the Canadian Guild of Potters covering exhibitions will be fully published without exception;
- that a clarifying statement will be forthcoming as to specific ways and means for B. C. Pottery to be chosen by the Canadian Guild of Potters for National or International exhibitions, without prejudice or favoritism whatsoever; and
- that, therefore, in the event that the Canadian Guild with whom we are affiliated wishes to have work available on the spot for short notice dispatch, the B. C. Guild would be willing to have Representative work juried and available for the purpose.

### COMING EVENTS...

1. General meeting of the Potters Guild on Thursday, Feb. 18 in the auditorium of the Vancouver School of Art, Dunsmuir and Hamilton St. at 7.30 p.m.  
Lecture by Dr. A. C. D. Chaklader, Assist. Professor, Department of Metallurgy, University of B. C. Dr. Chaklader will speak on CLAY AND ITS USES IN CERAMICS - no admission charge.
2. The Children's Foundation is holding its annual Studio Fair on April 2, 1965, at Hycroft and has requested potters wishing to participate to contact Mrs A. R. Symons, 5260 Keith Rd., West Vancouver as soon as possible. There is no entry fee. Potters set their own price and receive 60% of the proceeds. (Last year's total sale reached \$2,000 with 1200 people attending).
3. We are anticipating a lecture by Leonard Woods on historical aspects of pottery. Mr. Woods is particularly interested in talking about Sung pottery. Date will be announced in next news letter.

4. Annual General Meeting, with election of officers to be announced.
5. The Canadian Guild of Potters Exchange Show with the craftsman-potters of Great Britain will be held in April 1965 in London, Eng. No information regarding the return show here has been made available.
6. Genn Lewis has been sent by the department of education, UBC, as their representative to a meeting in Winnipeg to form a National Craftsmans Council; he has agreed to give a full report to the Potters Guild.
7. Second Annual Small Sculpture and Drawing Exhibition, April 1 to 30; entries due March 1. Apply to Western Wash. State College, Bellingham, Wash. 98225.
8. The Henry Gallery will have a large show by Robert Sperry from Feb. 21 through March 21, 1965.
9. Any ceramic equipment wanted, or for sale by members will be publicized here; write our publicity editor.
10. Possibly a large Guild sponsored Pottery Show and sale will be organized for late November; details will be forthcoming.

#### NEWS

A lecture with slides by the famous Finnish potter, Kyllikki Salmenhaara, who ~~was~~ giving a summer course at UBC, was arranged for Saturday evening, July 11, 1964, at the Buchanan Bldg.

Okanagan News: It seems that each month almost brings more art and craft activity and participants to the Valley. Mr. and Mrs Schwenk can be considered the pottery pioneers of the region if one doesn't go back to the really early period of Mr. Ebring of Vernon and Notch Hill. Added to these folk are local people such as Mr. Des Loane who has become interested in pottery in the Summerland region, and moving in time and distance a little north to Kelowna we find Walter



and Muriel Dexter who settled next to the old Okanagan Mission a couple of years ago. September found Mr. Kujundzic of the Kootenay School of Art resettling in Kelowna to teach in the Rutland High School and to open his Art Centre for private teaching and sales. Mr. Frank Poll of Austria is potting at Okanagan Centre and just north of him the Hatfields are building, or about to when the snow goes off the hill, the "Pinehill Pottery". We hope that summer will see some of you turning off the main highway at Winfield and wending your way along six scenic miles to our pottery. By then we hope to have studio, teaching facilities and ceramic supplies, or at least some of these, so come along for a chat and a swim. The Vernon Art Assn. sponsored a collection of the Schwenk earthenwares in December which, catching the lovely blues of the lakes in their glazes, excited happy Christmas shoppers. During the Association membership night in January, Mr. Kujundzic gave a thought provoking talk on the role of the "Handcraftsman in Contemporary Society" and showed a collection of Woodcarvings, pottery and sculpture. The February exhibition held during the time of Vernon winter carnival will feature stoneware by Frances Hatfield.

Frances Hatfield.

We regret that the news from Gerry Weld (Vancouver Island) was not available at the time of printing.

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Tear off and Send

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I would like to become a member of the B. C. Potters Guild.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZONE \_\_\_\_\_

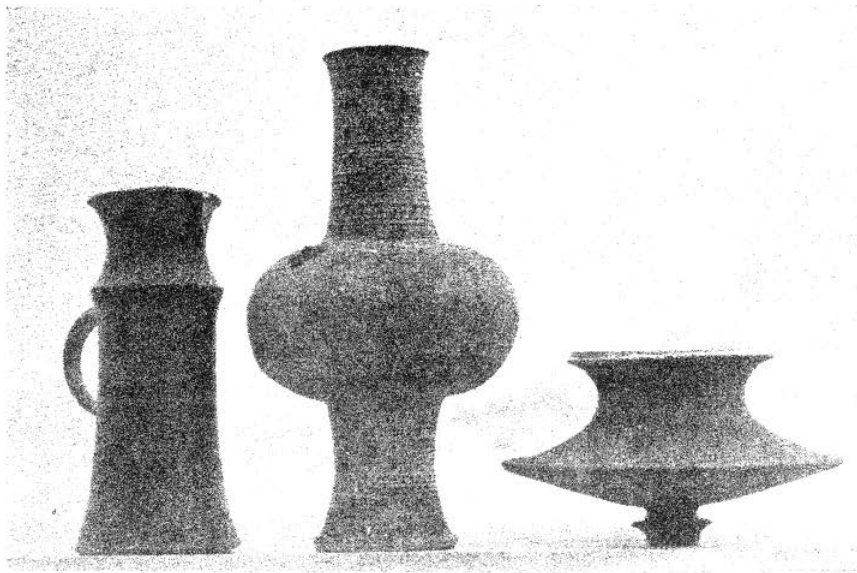
Send cheques plus exchange to Treasurer of the B. C. Potters Guild:

Mr. Jack Diggle,

190 East Kings Road,

North Vancouver, B. C.

(Membership Fee - \$3.00)



Vases in dark brown, brownish red/sand  
and iron rust glazes by Kyllikki Salmenhaara,  
Finland

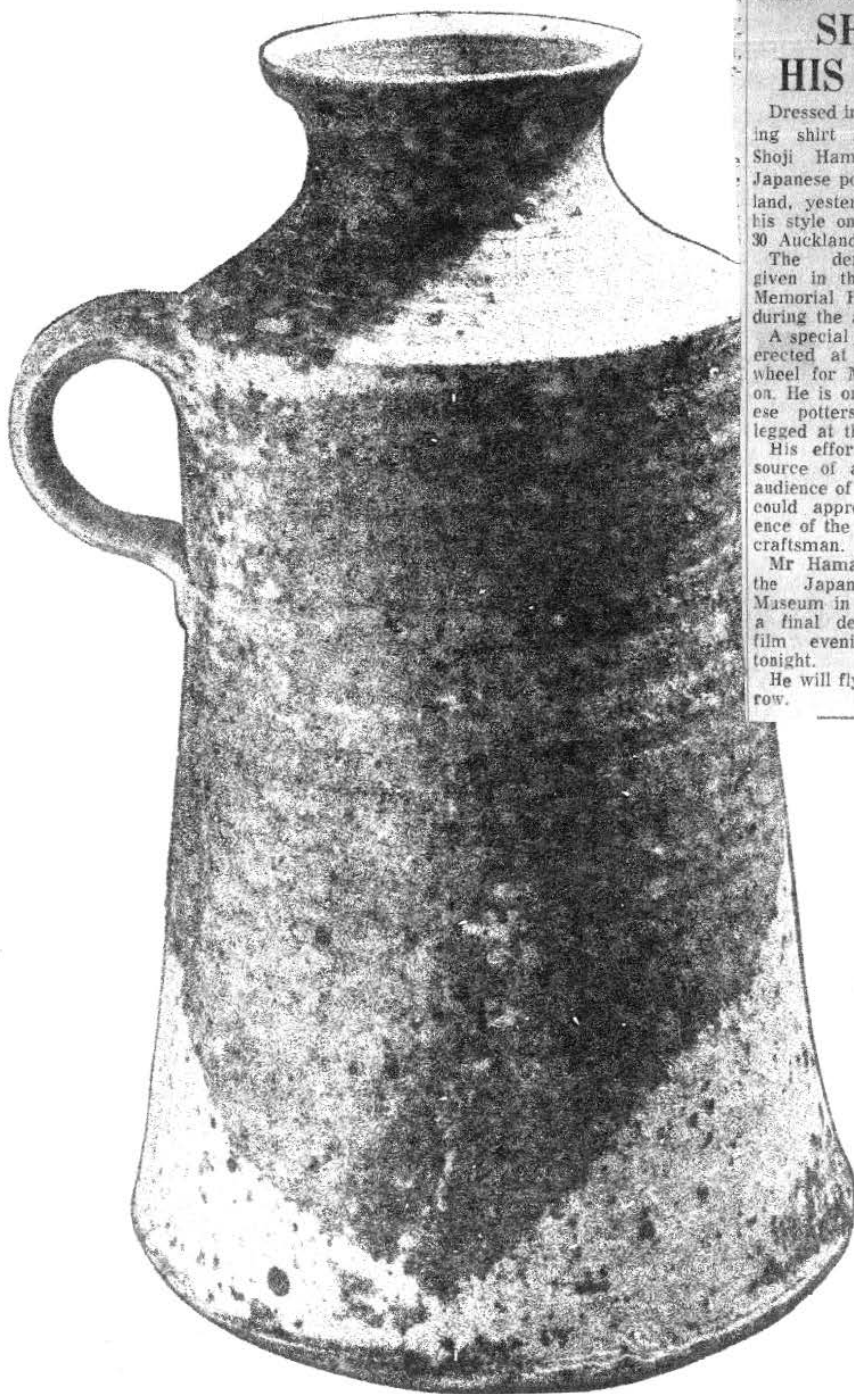
Kyllikki Salmenhaara gave a master potters course at the University of B. C. Extension Dept. last summer.

A highlight of the course was an illustrated lecture she gave, at which all members of the B. C. Potters Guild were invited.

Most of her work seemed to have been executed in the stoneware-porcelain temperature range, her favourite type of glaze being felspatic at above 1300 degrees Cent.

.....(overleaf) Brown chamotte cylindric jars 14" high.

Kyllikki Salmenhaara, Finland.



## MR. HAMADA SHOWS HIS STYLE

Dressed in blue denim working shirt and trousers, Mr Shoji Hamada, the expert Japanese potter visiting Auckland, yesterday demonstrated his style on the wheel before 30 Auckland potters.

The demonstration was given in the Mt Albert War Memorial Hall for two hours during the afternoon.

A special platform had to be erected at the level of the wheel for Mr Hamada to sit on. He is one of many Japanese potters who sit cross-legged at their wheels.

His effortless style was a source of amazement to the audience of senior potters who could appreciate the experience of the 70-year-old master craftsman.

Mr Hamada, a director of the Japanese Folk Craft Museum in Tokyo, will make a final demonstration at a film evening in the hall tonight.

He will fly to Sydney tomorrow.

